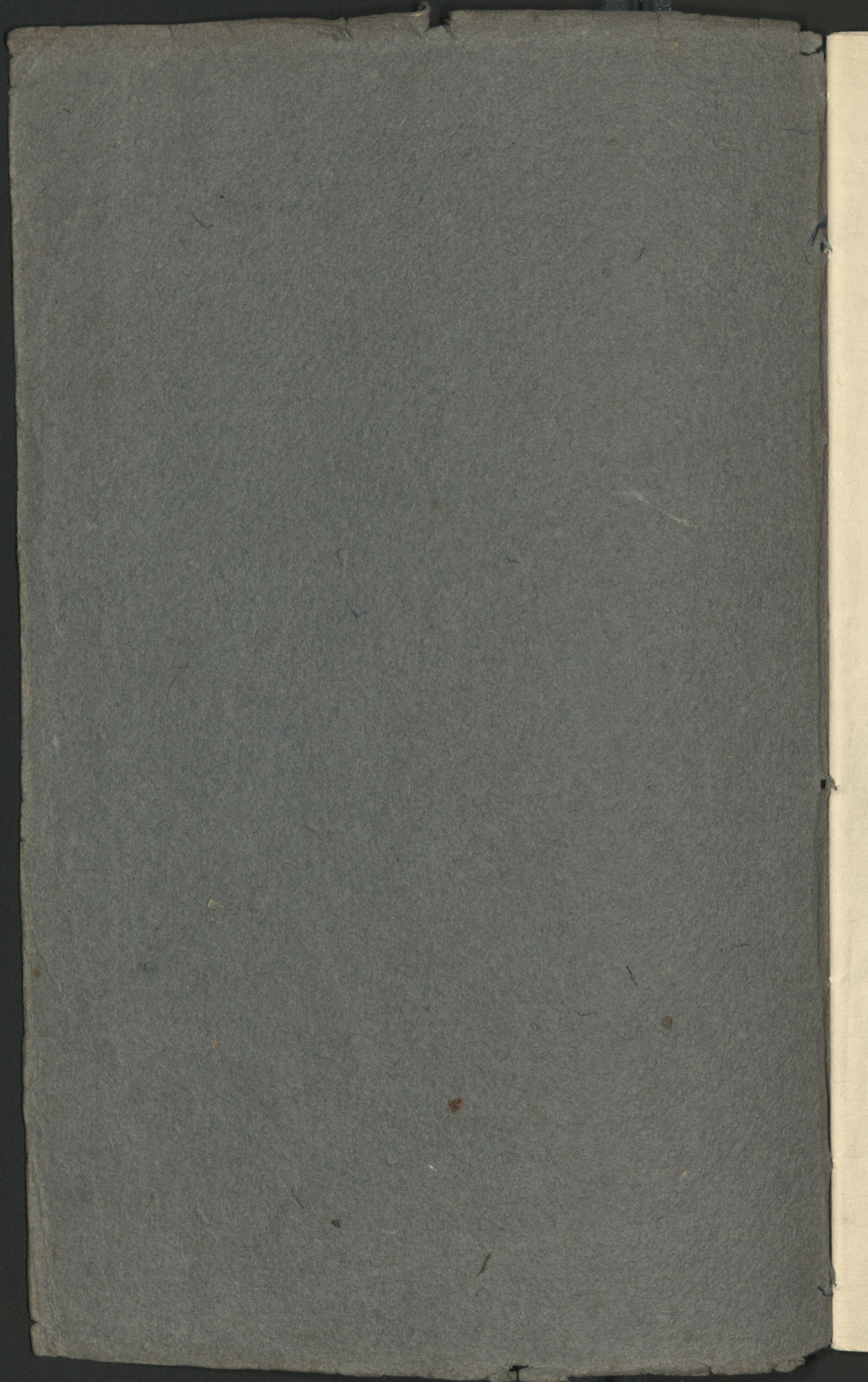
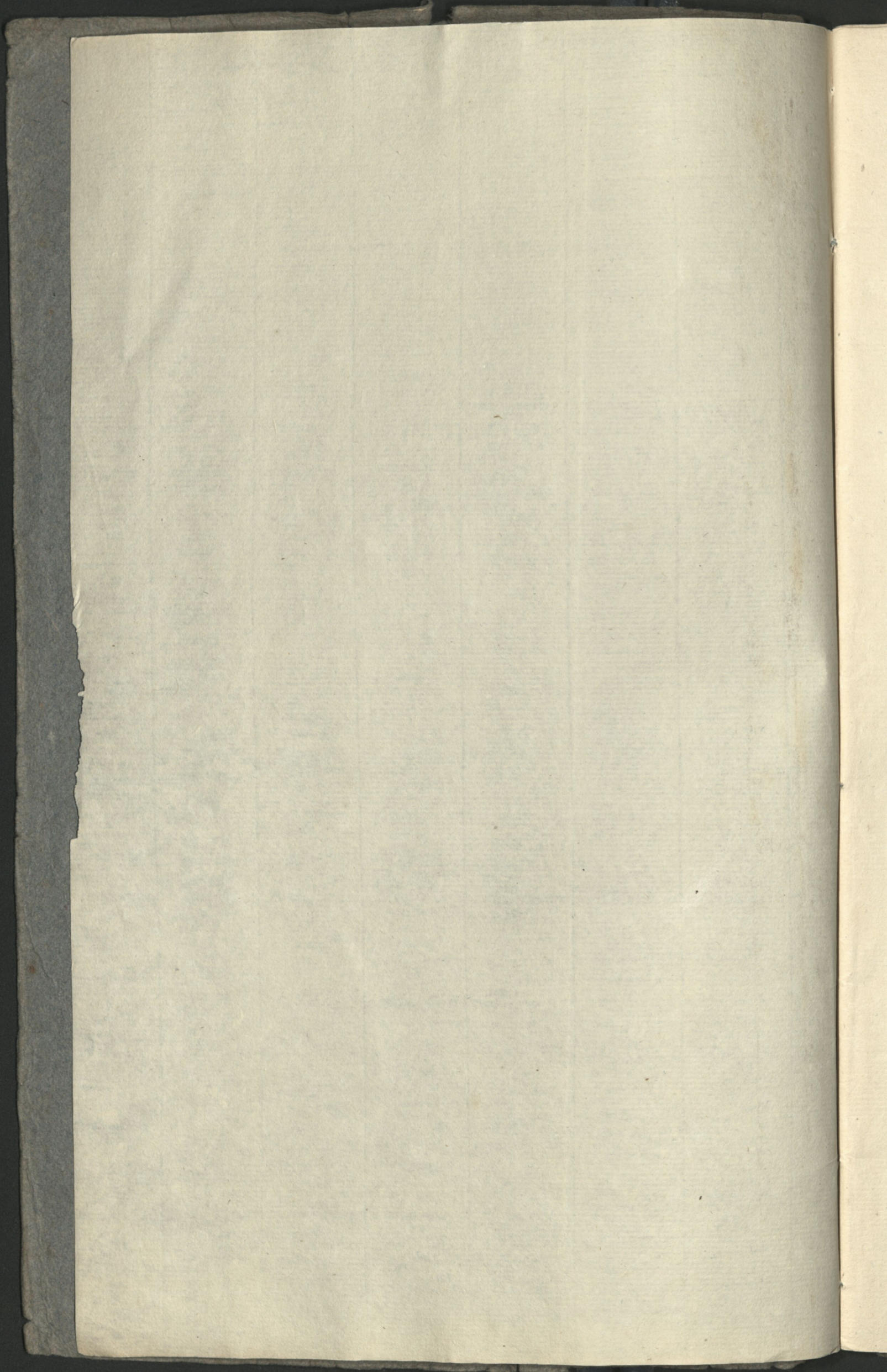


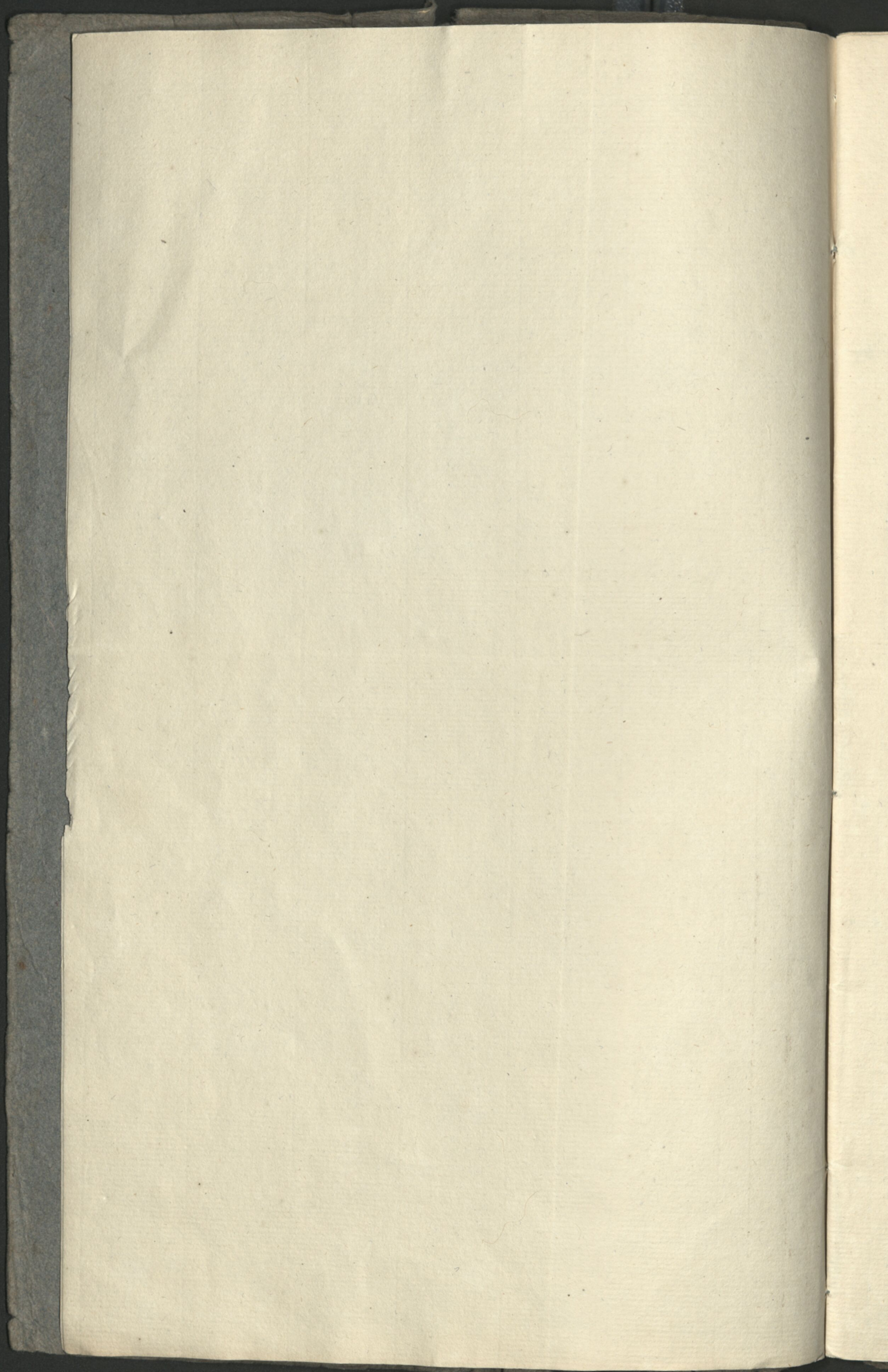
War of
1812



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1 The Situation and proceedings of the Inhabitants of Nantucket with sundry Occurrences during the war of 1812. 1813. 1814. & 1815 being Situated upon an Island ten leagues from the Continent beyond the protection of the United States who are involved in wars with the British Government, and the Communication with this Island so far Interrupted by the British Vessels of wars as to make our Situation truly alarming we received the information on 20th of June 1812 that war was declared, and on the 22th several respectable inhabitants met together to consult and devise some method to save this place from ruin considering it a favourable opportunity, by permission, to make application to the then British Minister, Mr Foster who was at that time at Washington and inform him of our Situation and try for some relief as we could take no part in the wars, and agreed to appoint five then present and for Gideon Gardner to acquaint Obed Mitchell John Cartwright and others and see if they would appoint five others to meet with them and consult and devise some measure to save our property then at sea and to try to obtain liberty to fish & whale in these waters during the war, Gideon Gardner waited on Obed Mitchell and informed him the above proposition, Obed said he would consult with Christopher Mitchell & others, & after consulting, Obed informed Gideon Gardner that it was their opinion the prospect was not worth the attempt and would not meet with their friends on the subject to try for relief.

A number of the Selectmen and others not willing to stop without a try all for relief meet from time to time & after ^{some of the inhabitants had} losing over four thousand Dollars by the capture of the sloop Earl with a load of oil from the ship Criterion which was paid about the first of April 1814 and about that time the Enemy frequently captured the coasting & wood vessels & some boats passing after provisions for the relief of this people. the Liverpool privateer and other enemies being often in sight so that the communication was mostly stopped and on the 17th of June 1814 a large number met with the selectmen to get their assistance to qualify a paper for Jonathan Smith in the sloop Monroe to go after a load of corn & flour & the sloop Earl Jacob Barney also which was both agreed on and sent by individuals with a begging paper from the selectmen for each vessel informing of our Situation at this time not being a bushel of corn to sell.

or a barrel of flour nor a cord of wood to be had at Nantucket
 at this time. as follows - being a copy of Jon^s Smith's Letter
 Viz^t To the Commander in Chief of his Britannic majesties Ships
 and Vessels of war on the North American Station -
 The Island of Nantucket is principally inhabited by people called
 Quakers. they together with the other inhabitants of this place take
 no part in wars - altho from the calamity of wars being situated upon
 an Island they are a distressed people and upon the principle of
 Humanity we the undersigned Selectmen and Overseers of the poor
 do hereby Certify that the absolute distress of the inhabitants of this
 Town are truly alarming not a bushel of corn to be bought in this place
 at this time - and the sufferings of this people are beyond description
 and necessity compels us to dispatch the Sloop Alonso Jonathan Smith
 master to the Continent for the purpose of procuring corn and other
 materials for Bread for the immediate relief of the distress of this people
 therefore upon the principles of Humanity they seriously request
 and feel fully persuaded that the Commander in Chief will permit
 this Vessel to pass unmolested for to procure relief to the distressed
 with out delay

Sign^d:

Gideon Folger

Tristram Huppy

Isaac Coffin

Daniel Coffin

Joseph Chase

Selectmen of
the Town of
Nantucket

Obed Marshall

Prince Gardner

Overseers of the
Town's PoorNantucket 6th 18th 1814.Jonathan Smith being the
Bearer of the above who
was detained by Capt of the ship
Belvidier Frigate & let go again

To the Commander in Chief of his Britannic Majesties Ships and Vessels
 On the North American Station and to all Commanders of his Britannic majesties
 Ships and Vessels on the different Stations in North America

We the undersigned Selectmen and overseers of the poor of the Town
 of Nantucket do most respectfully request you to take into your Consi-
 deration the distress and alarming situation of this ^{people} and we solicit you
 to receive this Vessel as a flag of truce sent by us for the express pur-
 pose to request you will grant us permission to bring the necessary sup-
 plies of provisions and fuel from the continent unmolested. we beg leave
 to represent to you Absolute facts. Viz^t the Island of Nantucket is ~~inhabited~~
 Principally inhabited by people call^d Quakers they together with the oth-
 er inhabitants of this place take no part in wars altho from the Calami-
 ties of wars and being situated upon an Island. and upon the principles
 of Humanity we the undersigned do hereby Certify the distress of this people is
 Truly alarming. and necessity compels us to dispatch this sloop Earl Peter
 F Coffin our Agent. who we have instructed to ask you in a respectful
 manner to grant us such permission as will relieve the distress of this
 People.

Sign^d:

Isaac Coffin

Daniel Coffin

Joseph Chase

Tristram Huppy

George Gardner

Tr: Mary Gideon Folger

Selectmen of the Town

of Nantucket

& by Obed Marshall

Prince Gardner

overseers of

the poor of Nantucket

Instructions to Peter F Coffin. 6th of 7^{mo} 1814

We hereby appoint you our agent you herewith have our flag of truce for the express purpose to proceed to the Commander in chief of his Britannic Majestys ships and Vessels on the North American Station you will in the name of this town represent in a respectful manner to the Commander in Chief and all other Commanders of his Britannic Majestys ships and Vessels on the North American Station that the people of this place take no part in wars but remain Neutral as far as in their power it being a well known fact that we are within the Jurisdiction of the United States of America yet we are placed by nature beyond their protection which was considered in the revolutionary war by this State a sufficient cause to exempt us from paying taxes during the revolutionary war. which we were exempt from by this State and we have petitioned the Congress of the United States to Exempt us from paying the present tax of the United States which petition is now Pending. during the revolutionary our Situation Compelled us to apply to the Commander in chief of his Britannic majestys ships and Vessels on this Station for relief he upon the principle of humanity granted ~~granted~~ us permission to whale on the American coast one of the original permits you have here inclosed our Situation is truly alarming beyond description and the inhabitants of this town cannot exist upon this Island without permission from the commander in Chief and the other commanders of his Britannic Majestys ships & Vessels on this Coast therefore you will represent our Situation and solicit him or them to grant permission not only for the sloop Earl but for the people of this place to bring from the continent necessary provisions and fuel, and to carry to the continent oil fish & Candles to pay for provisions and fuel also to solicit permission for the Vessels of this place to fish and whale and in return we pledge ourselves that we will petition the government of the United States to Exempt the British fishermen from molestation which we flatter ourselves might be carried into effect

Nantucket 6th of 7^{mo} 1814 (By order and in behalf of the Selectmen
To Peter F Coffin present) of the town of Nantucket.
Signed Isaac Coffin. Chairman

4 The Sloop Earl Sailed on the 10th of 7^m 1814

soon after the sloop Earl sail^d our troubles increased by the enemies being often in sight and frequently taking and stopping the provisions and fuel from coming it was considered proper to advertise for a town meeting to seek for further relief and to prevent a committee of safety being placed over the selectmen as was contemplated, and to prevent confusion —

At a legal Town meeting 23th of 7^m 1814 Voted

That we appoint the present selectmen of this town a Committee with full powers to make use of such means as may appear to them most Eligible for this town to pursue which the constitution and laws of the United States and this State do not forbid for the Inhabitants of this place to bring wood and provisions and other necessities for the Consumption of the Inhabitants of the Island of Nantucket from the continent of the United States —

1814th
7^m 23 On or about the opening of this meeting or about 2 o'clock-two P M the sloop Charlotte saild George Cartwright master Charles Cartwright & Benjⁿ Coffin — agents. supposed bound after a load of provisions, but the first news we heard of them was at Bermuda 10th of 8^m 1814 which information we got about the 3rd of 9^m 1814 —

On or about the 25th soon after the town meeting the Selectmen with the advice of some friends appointed Gideon Gardner & Zenas Coffin to contract with David Starbuck for sloop Hawk as a flag vessel to go and try for relief for the inhabitants of Nantucket — and for P Committee to forward and have Sloop Hawk to be ready for see as soon as possible which was done and Sloop David Starbuck master saild. on the 28th as a flag of truce —

Silvanus May & Isaac Coffin as Commissioners

Andrew Calder as mate

Reuben Ellis

Barzella May

Frederick May

} and People

Boy —

A Flag of truce & instructions the following is a Copy
 Viz^d. To Silvanus Macy and Isaac Coffin Esq^{rs}.
 By this present instrument you are hereby appointed
 and legally qualified by the Selectmen of Nantucket as
 Commissioners to embark in the sloop Hawk Cap^t David -
 Starbuck who has received directions to carry you without
 delay to the British Naval Commander in Chief on the
 North American Station - when you may meet the comon
 ander in Chief you will carefully and faithfully represent
 to him the present state and Condition of the inhabitants
 of this Town adding also that they are seriously apprehen-
 sive of the overwhelming effect of famine which seems
 can neither be evaded or eluded except permission can
 be obtained from the Commander in chief to import
 the necessary provisions and fuel from the continent
 to this Island. but as you are fully acquainted with
 every particular it is considered needless to add any thing
 more on this Subject than to mention our confidence -
 that you will give it all the attention which its importa-
 nce may appear to demand - you are also so well acqu-
 ainted with the exhausted state of our finances and the
 necessity of ways and means to replenish them and that the
 fishing has been hereby our Constant dependance for that
 purpose but little need be said on the occasion we would
 however recommend that you mention the facts of things
 to the Commander in Chief and if possible to obtain perm-
 ision to procure it as heretofore it is presumed we need
 not add any thing more then to call your pointed
 attention to the several particulars herein Contained

Nantucket 27th of 7^m 1814

Sign^d. Dan^l Coffin }
 Joseph Chase } Selectmen of the
 Francis Macy } Town of
 George Gardner } Nantucket
 Gideon Folger }

Orders to Capt David Hartuck

It having been determined by the Selectmen of the Town of Nantucket to dispatch the sloop Hawk now under your Command to Chesapeake Bay or else where as a flag of truce - you will with all possible Convenience prepare your Vessel for that undertaking and after being equipt for the Voyage you will imbrace the first favourable opportunity and proceed to the place of your destination subject however to the following Instructions -

First. you are to display the white flag at your topmasthead and continue it abroad (as Occasion may require) during the time you are Considered as a cartel - As Silvanus Macy and Isaac Coffin Esq^{rs} will embark with you as Commissioners to negotiate or transact the Concerns of the Town under directions of the Selectmen - you will in every Case. be Subject to their Control and attentive to their orders keeping constantly in view that an important point of your duty will be to convey them to the British Naval Commander in chief on the North American Station with the least possible delay you will not admit any passenger or article of merchandise whatever at any time during your Voyage to be taken on board your Vessel except it be by the express direction of the above mentioned Commissioners - Sign^d.

Nantucket
27th of 7^m 1814

Joseph Chase	} Selectmen of the	
James Macy		
Daniel Coffin		
George Gardner		
Gideon Tolger		
		} Town of
		Nantucket

On or about the 11th of 8^m 1814 the Sloop Experiment sail-
bound westward, supposed after provisions ~~to leave the~~
~~water~~, but from what has appeared since as follows it
was to prevent the Selectmen from receiving their
wrights -

On the 22th Inst. the British Brig of War Nimrod an-
chored at the bar of this harbour and hoisted a white
flag at the foretop gallion head. - the Collector of the ~~colle~~
~~ctor~~ of Customs and the Deputy marshal of this place went
of in a boat with a white flag set, after round bran point
saw a boat ahead of them and soon after saw a boat
from the brig with a white flag, ~~from the brig~~ coming
towards them which seem to have some conversation
with the boat from the shoar which laid round and
road in for the shoar, when the Collector & Marshal
mett the boat from the Brig the officer of the
brig got in to the collectors boat and had some
talk, but got in to his own boat again but told
the Collector & Marshal he would meet them on shoar
the Collector having a fish boat the brigs bang went a
head and the other boat from the shoar being a whale
boat went ahead also with Aaron Mitchel & Albert Goss
in it, and to the surprise of the Collector & Marshal
had aised of the officer of the boat so that they
never saw him after to speak to him, but it
was reported from Obed Mitchel Aaron Mitchel &
a great many others, and some of the Selectmen
called on, and in ^{some of} ~~form~~ by them that there was a ~~reception~~
Communication on board the Brig Nimrod Directed to
Isaac Coffin Chairman Gideon Tolger & others of the Selectmen, ~~and~~
and to Obed Mitchel & Christopher Mitchel - which was not
found correct afterwards

8 The British officer went up with Josiah Barker to his house with Aaron Albert and others, the Selectmen met at Tristram Shupry house, after waiting some time expecting the Officer would call on them. they sent to this officer and informed him provided he had any communication to make to them they would be pleased to see him. he informed them his business was to deliver a letter to the magistrates of the Town which he had done, after this the officer went home with Aaron to his house afterwards about the middle of the evening Gideon Gardner met this officer near O & Gth as if coming from Aarons and informed him in the street the selectmen would be pleased to see him he said he would go and see them then G Gardner waited on him to Tristram Shupry house where the selectmen were about 8 o'clock in the evening of 22th on their way this Officer informed Gideon Gardner there was a sealed paper on board the Nimrod of propositors the terms which the Admiral would grant Indulgence to Nantuxet but he knew not the contents, and that that paper was directed to Isaac Coffin Chairman & others of the selectmen, & Obed Mitchell & Christopher Mitchell, and when the Officer met with the Selectmen he informed them about the communication to them on board and invited them to come on board to morrow and receive the paper and then the Officer returned to his boat about 9 o'clock Gideon Gardner went down with him and see him go of about that time.

on 23th About 8 o'clock in the morning the selectmen being ready to go of called on Christopher Mitchell & Obed to go of with them, which they refused then the selectmen went of and when they got on board the brig and went below in the cabin to there surprise they saw Josiah Barker Albert Gardner & Aaron Mitchell with Capt Newton ^{on the table} ~~the table~~ with all the papers open and spread ~~and~~ after Capt Newton received & seated them he read ~~the~~ papers to them which was his instructions from Commodore Hotham which was afterwards read in open town meeting

The Selectmen then requested a copy of P Orders which he said
 he would have copy^d and they should have it after it was
 wrote and about to come on shore Capt Newton had in-
 vited them all to go in his boat having rumly seats -
 they excepted but before they got in to the boat Daniel
 Coffin one of the selectmen ask^d Capt Newton for P paper
 again he said it was in his pocket and he would give
 it him. but they all got in the boat and came on shore
 and landed about half past eleven and Capt Newton was aid
 ed direct to ~~the~~ the Washington benevolent society
 Hall, where a large number was mett to hear P papers read
 instead of being delivered to the selectmen as was proposed
 after a short time and that meeting hearing the papers
 read the meeting adjourned to meet again after dinner
 then Capt Newton went home with Aaron Mitchell and
 afternoon returned to P meeting again which was large
 Collection. all this time the selectmen and inhabitan-
 ts new not what was agoing on but was informed
 out doors by Aaron & Christopher that if we did not
 agree, to the Communicator, that Capt Newton had
 Orders to secure and seal up all the ^{private} property on
 the Island. after dinner the selectmen met again at
 Tristram Huppy and waited till after 3 o'clock before
 they received any communication several calling on
 them to no what was to be done after which James Barker
 went down near the brick office where Christopher Michel
 meet him and was informed ^{that} had nothing of any Communicator
 yet but Christopher went in and soon bro^t it out and James
 carried ^{it} up to the selectmen, and before they had time to
 read P paper there was a committee in from the Benevolent
 place and before it was read there was another committee
 in from the same place with a writin application for a town.

Meeting at 6 o'clock this afternoon which was complied with the warrant wrote and put ^{up} as usual as soon as could be which was but about 2 hours before meeting

1814-23th of Dec^r At 6 o'clock the inhabitants of the town meet agreeable to the warrant posted up, and Voted Jethro Mitchell J^r moderator for P^r meeting and adjourned out of Doors round and about the towns Cistern as the town house would not accomodate the inhabitants after reading the warrant the instructions from Commodore Hotham to Cap^t Newton was read which will follow after the Votes of P^r hasty & proceedings

Voted that this town will not take up arms against Great Britain during the present war between Great Britain and the United States of America severally or individually ~

Voted that this town will surrender up all such public arms & ammunition that shall be found in P^r town ~

Voted that this town will not take to defend any public property

Voted that this town will make no opposition against any British vessel coming into this harbour to refresh

Voted that this town will chase a committee to wait on Commodore Hotham in Gardners Bay or elsewhere agreeable to his request

Voted that this Committee consist of four persons

Voted that Cap^t Joseph Chase, Cap^t Lenas Coffin, Josiah Barker Esq^r & M^r Aaron Mitchell be the above ^{than} ^{com}

Voted the Committee provide a Vessel for them so as that shall be suitable for their purposes ~

Voted that the above Committee inform Cap^t Newton the Commander of the brig Nimrod the proceedings of this meeting and that they are appointed to wait on Commodore Hotham in Gardners Bay or Else where ~

The reader may judge from the following observation of the agitated situation of this people, to pass the above Votes, after hearing Aaron Mitchell declare in the above mentioned town meeting that Cap^t Newton of the Nimrod informed him provided the Nantucket people did not agree to the terms offered by Commodore Hotham that his orders were to put seals on the private property. these observations was circulating before the meeting to prepare the people for what, the reader will judge ~

A Copy

Superb off Gardners Island 21th of August 1814

Sir

The Commander in Chief having transmitted to me petitions

Cap^t Barrie of his majestys Ship Dragon had received and forwarded him from the selectmen of Nantucket representing the inhabitants of that Island to be in a state of starvation copies of which I inclose for your information and I instructed me to cause inquiry to be made into the truth of the statement they contain and to act therein as I may deem circumstances to require. I herewith send you also the Copy of a paper received by Captain Carteret of his majestys Ship Pomone from them - and have to desire you will proceed in the sloop under your Command to the road before the town of Nantucket, and inquire into the truth of the statement the people of Nantucket have made, and if you should find them actually in the distress situation they represent you will acquaint the magistrates and selectmen I am instructed by the commander in chief to grant them permission to import from the Continent Supplies of provisions and fuel provided they will declare the Island and themselves Neutral in the war which exists between Great Britain and America, and surrender all such artillery Arms and Ammunition as well as all Government property, which may be on the Island and furnish to any of his majestys Ships or Vessels which may arrive there such refreshments as it will afford without distressing the Inhabitants on receiving payment for the same. but you will at the same time distinctly give them to understand that they cannot be allowed to carry^{on} their fishery nor any other description of trade but that which consists to the necessities of life in the event of their consenting to these terms, you will effectly destroy all such artillery arms and Ammunition which may be delivered up as you cannot receive onboard the Nimrod and put seals on the government property informing the magistrates if they are broken before directions shall be received for its disposal the Contract with the Inhabitants of the Island shall be annulled and having so done you will rejoin me without loss of time on any rendezvous bringing with you a deputation of Magistrates or selectmen in any Vessel of their own to conclude with me a treaty to the above effect desiring them to bring me the names and descriptions of the Vessels they wish to be furnished with passports which must consist of a limited and small number - in the execution of this service you will pay the strictest attention in discriminating public from private property and preventing any injury being done to that which belongs to the Inhabitants, and if you should find them amicably disposed you will observe a friendly conduct towards them - I have the honor to be Sir

your most Obedient Humble servant Signd. Henry Hotham

To Cap^t Newton }
H. M. Sloop Nimrod }

Commodore

A Copy Superb of Gardners Island, 21st August 1814

Gentlemen

Vice Admiral the Honorable Sir Alexander Cochrane, Commander in Chief of his Majestys Fleet on the North American Station has received the several Petitions the Selectmen of Nantucket transmitted to Capt Barrie of his Majestys Ship Dragon in the month of July last, and having instructed me to)

To The Worshipful

The Magistrates of the
Island of Nantucket

To Communicate with them on the Subject, I directed Cap^t Carteret of his majestys Ship Comore to do so, from whom I have received the letter bearing date the 11th Inst. which you had addressed to the Officer Commanding either of his majestys ships, requesting Permission to import wood from Buzzards Bay, and Provisions from other parts for the relief of the inhabitants of the Island of which you are the magistrates — in reply to which I beg leave to acquaint you I have sent Cap^t Newton of his Majestys Sloop Nimrod to propose to you the terms on which the Commander in Chief has authorized me to grant the indulgences you require and if they should meet the views of the people of Nantucket I shall be happy to receive on board the superb off Gardners Island, a deputation of Persons duly empowered to Conclude with me a treaty having for its object the rendering neutral the Island, Island of Nantucket during the present war between great Britain and America, and (for the) relief of its Inhabitants. I have the honor to be) Gentlemen) your most obedient & humble Servant

Signed - Henry Stotham
Commander

This Communication was not known to the selectmen or magistrates as directed, until the Court held from them by the benevolent judges for better quick happy & others. I am in great haste

A Copy N^o 1

Declaration of the undersigned Committee appointed by a legal Town meeting held at the Island of Nantucket, On the 23rd Day of August 1814, To wit on -

Commodore the Honorable Henry Hotham, Commanding his Britannic Majesties Ship and Vessels Employed on the Coast of North America, between Nantucket and the Delaware, to stipulate for the relief of the said Island -

1st.

The Island of Nantucket is hereby declared neutral the Inhabitants will take no part whatever Collectively or Severally in the present war between Great Britain and the United States of America -

2^d.

We pledge our selves there are no Arms Artillery Ammunitions nor warlike Stores, nor government property of any kind on the Island except the light houses and a scanty supply of oil for the season which we request may remain unmolested -

3^d.

Such refreshments as the Island may be able to afford, without distressing the Inhabitants will be as free for the use of his Majesties Ships as at other friendly Places -

Given under our hand, on board his Britannic Majesties Ship Superb in Gardners Bay -

the 28th Day of August 1814

(Signd.) J
by } Jonah
Aaron

Chase
Cott
Barber
Mitchel

14 Copy

By the Hon^{ble}. Henry Hotham Commodore Commanding his Majesties Ships and Vessels employed on the coast of North America between Nantucket and the Delaware. The Island of Nantucket having this Day declared neutral by a deputation appointed at a legal town meeting held on the 23rd Inst to wait on me to stipulate for the relief of the inhabitants, who engage they shall take no part what ever in the war between Great Britain, and the United States of America - and that such refreshments as it can afford without distressing shall be as free for the use of his Majesties ships as at other friendly places, and having by the direction of Vice Admiral the Honorable Sir Alexander Cochrane K. B. Commander in Chief &c &c in Consideration thereof granted them permission to import provisions live stock fuel and other necessities of life from the Continent of the United States and furnished certain Vessels with Passports to perform such Voyages unmolested, by the ships and Vessels of his Majesties, and by the private armed Vessels of his subjects, there are to request and direct that no hostilities, nor Depredations be committed by those which may arrive at or communicate with that Island —

Given under my hand and seal on board his Majesties ship Superb of New London the 28th of August 1814

To
The Commanders
of his Majesties Ships & Vessels
(and of the private armed Vessels of his subjects)

Sign^d. Henry Hotham —

By Command of the Commodore, John Irving.

1814 - 8th 30th Early in the Morning the Sloop Experiment arrived at Nantucket with the Committee of the town from Commodore Hotham inform their friends they had agreed on an arrangement with Commodore Hotham for the relief of this people to bring Provisions and fuel from the Continent of the United States of America unmolested, & requested some of their friends to meet with them and hear the agreement according to appointment the following persons met with the towns Committee, Francis Macy James Barker Gideon Gardner Tristram Hussey, Obed Mitchell Christopher Mitchell Thaddeus Coffin & Robert Folger all met in the bank Chamber a committee of twelve which thought it most advisable to add Gideon Gardner & Obed Mitchell with the standing Committee and arrange the business in the best way they could for the benefit of the town, which was agreed on as follows. for the three Vessels that follow the Philadelphia trade the three Vessels that follow the New York trade and the two packet all of the above Vessels being considered to be in good business to pay one dollar & 10^{cts} for the tonnage of each Vessel for the use of the town and that each Vessel should take freight on reasonable terms not to exceed a fixed price of 6^{cts} and other freight in proportion, and the Vessels that load wood not to exceed six dollars & 50^{cts} for the present time, —

Also the above Committee of arrangement appointed Gideon Gardner & Josiah Barker a Committee to go to Boston and make a representation to Elbridge Gerry the Vice President of the United States this Committee left Nantucket on 31th 8th and waited on the Vice President at his house on the 1st 9th in the evening at Cambridge near Boston and informed him the circumstances and situation of the people of Nantucket as follows — — —

146
1814 9th

This evening being the first day of September this
Committee Gideon Gardner & Josiah Barker waited
on the Vice President Elbridge Gerry at his house
at Cambridge and informed him they were a Committee
from Nantucket to wait on him and inform him as
Vice President of the United States that the British brig
Nimrod, came to Nantucket bar on the 22 of August
from Commodore Hotham of the British squadron
off Gardner's Island with an official demand, that
the inhabitants declare themselves neutral and
deliver up Government property and furnish such
refreshments as they could spare to the British when
they come to this place, there being no government
property nor a sufficient supply for the inhabitants
it was that proper to agree to the proposition on
the promise of a pass for a number of vessels for
to bring provisions & the necessaries of life and
fuel from the continent, being informed that if
we did ^{not} agree to the above proposals that Capt
Newton would put seals on all the private
property — and that the inhabitants had a
town meeting chose a committee & waited on
Commodore Hotham made an arrangement
for the relief of this people —
as above named —

This Committee requested the Vice President to receive
this report from Nantucket to him as Vice President.
and requested his opinion and counsel on the matter
he told them he thought they had acted as they had
ought to have done and in his opinion it was in a degree
Compulsion, and advised them to inform the
Congress of the United States the proceedings —
which was done by the collector by copies of papers

9th 9th 1814 one day before the arrival of the sloop Hawk
 A paper appeared posted up on Bernal's store, signed by a citizen
 mentioning that a British officer had declared, that if the
 People of Nantucket paid the direct tax the amount would
 be demanded by the British of the inhabitants, or some
 violence done to the Collector of P-tax, or nearly these words
 a forerunner of perhaps what the above writer was or
 might expect - perhaps by application from what follows,
 10th this Morning the sloop Hawk David Starbuck master arrived
 Sil^{rs} Mary & Isaac Coffin - Commissioners with the crew of sloop Lad
 which inform us they had been at Bermuda in pursuit of
 Admiral Cochrane the Commander in Chief and from there
 to the Chesapeake where they found him, while at Bermuda
 the Governor of Bermuda inform them that the ^{sloop} Charlotte
 was there from Nantucket and that application had
 been made to plant the British flag at Nantucket
 but did not say who this application was made by nor
 who it was receive by, but observed that they Silvanus
 Mary & Isaac Coffin were from Legal authority and if
 they wish it it could be done, they inform the Governor
 it was not the wish of the people of Nantucket

The sloop Hawk & sloop Charlotte left Bermuda
 in company with the frigate Madagascar for the Chesapeake
 on or about the 10th of August, and on or about the
 they arrived of the capes of the Chesapeake in the morning
 and in the after noon the Charlotte arrived, on the
 same afternoon Sil^{rs} Mary & Isaac Coffin went on board
 the Asia a 74 gun ship Capt Sheen, where they found
 Peter H Coffin Jacob Barney & crew prisoners, Sil^{rs} Mary
 Isaac Coffin & Peter H Coffin all dined with Capt Sheen
 in company with the Capt of the Frigate Madagascar &
 the Capt of the Brig Fairma sloop of war the Charlotte at

Anchor But a short distance from the Asia but were not called on board but to the contrary Capt Sheen observed at the table that that federal mob at Nantucket would ruin that place, and you two Gentlemen ^{before} it is over and I despise them you see, for I will not notice them on board the Charlotte

The next morning the sloop Hawk went up Bay in company with the frigate Madagascara and brig Fairra the Charlotte got under way also but was fired at and detained untill afternoon then they were released - on the 27th the sloop Hawk arrived in the Petuxen river and anchored near the admirals flag ship about noon day and delayed going on board to the admiral untill second day morning when they went and had an interview and finished their business before the Charlotte's agents went on board, but the admiral invited them ^{to come} on board again tomorrow to read a letter the instructions he had wrote to Commodore Hotham, which letter book was then on board of a ship below in the river the next Day according to ^{the} Commander invitation they went on board and read the instructions to Commodore Hotham and took a letter to him again from the Commander in Chief also an order for the Nantucket Prisoners on board the guard ship Asia &c. and to their surprise the admiral shew and read them a letter ~~dated~~ dated Nantucket, stating that they Sil^{rs} Mary & Isaac Coffin were democrats the Selectmen also, and the owners of the hawk - and that they and their party had sent an address to the President of the United States - offering their lives and fortunes, if he would carry on the war with Energy against Great Britain - provide this statement was true they must expect a cool reception from him - They inform the Commander in Chief the whole statement was false except that they were republicans and the whole was a false malicious letter &c which they saw & see the signature or sinner of P letter which was a Nantucket man, and they saw him on their return at Nantucket but were requested not to expose him for the present, he then finish with them by reading his Letter &c to Hotham and sent them to him with another letter and to get the necessary relief for

30th 8

70)

Nantucket that was required and read the Letter to them that they were to carry to Hotham without any Postscript to it. Letter after which Benj^m Coffin and Charles^W Cartwright had an interview with the admiral about ten minutes then Benj^m Coffin come out of the Cabin from the admiral and in form Sil^{ls} & Isaac that a poscript was to be added to Hothams Letter which the Admirals Secretary brought out and red to Sil^{ls} & Isaac and that was to forbid us at Nantucket to pay any taxes to the United States and then the letter was sealed and delivered to Sil^{ls} & Isaac and they left the ship without seeing the admiral again and returned on board the sloop Hawk and wrote from memory the following ^{is} the Purport if not the exact words

30th 8^{mo} 1814

~~under~~ No 9 - Frigate Surprise in the Petuxen River 30th August 1814
 Sir A deputation from the Island of Nantucket having waited upon me in this river under a flag of truce to solicit permission to obtain Supplies of food and fuel from the Continent of the United States, I have referred them to you, and you will be pleased to grant them such indulgences as you may deem proper. Consistently with what is prescribed in my letter No 6 of the 26th of July 1814 Respecting the Inhabitants of that Island - I have the honor to be Sir your most Obedient

Dear Admiral - Humble Servant A Cockburn
 the Hon^{ble} Henry Hotham
 8- 8- 8- (the Postscript follows) 8- 8- 8-

Postscript to No 9 from Admiral Cochrane to Hotham

As you will be pleased to signify to the inhabitants of the Island of Nantucket that if it be found they pay any duties taxes or internal duties for the support of the Government of the United States - I will with draw this indulgence forthwith and will call on them to pay double the amount to his majesties Government Signed A Cochrane

The reader may judge for him self about this postscript if they believe Silvanus Mary and Isaac Coffin when they solemnly declare that this letter was read to them the first time they were on board and that then by the secretary it only wanted the admirals signature and the next day read to them again with the other letters and with out the Postscript. then Benjⁿ Coffin and Charles W. Eastwrought was with the Admiral ten or fifteen minitts then Coffin come out of the Cabin & inform Sil^l & Isaac that the Postscript was added then the Secretary come out and read the Postscript above to them before sealing & then delivered it to Sil^l & Isaac to carry to Hotham

8^o 30th in the afternoon got our anchor on board the sloop Hawk and run down the Petuxen river the sloop Charlotte in sight after us when we got down to the capes we went on board the guard ship Asia Captⁿ Keen with our order from the Admiral to receive from him the Nantucket prisoners which was granted immediately and the order also to hold them by if stoped by any other ship or person, as might happen and left the capes as soon as we could for Hotham

1814
9th 7th

21

On or about the seventh of Sept the sloop Hawk arrived of the Eastend of Long Island and found Commodore Hotham Ship Superb at anchor near Fort Pond Bay. near Shagwarrow reef, anchored near her a boat was sent from the ship to the sloop to invite one of them on board with the letters & Papers and was informed by Commodore Hotham that he had already granted indulgence to a Committee from Nantucket which he inform Isaac all about and told him he could not do any more at present but informed him he had sent on to the Commander in Chief what he had done, & said to Isaac you'll have to come again as he said to the first Committee that he would grant them the liberty of carrying fish to market before inform of our fall fishing, and the necessity of the fisherman getting bread with some of their fish he again said we should have that privilege soon as the season was at hand for fishing. Thomas tried hard to obtain it then but it was obtained by some one we had done pretwell and must not ask for too much, for I have got nothing to get my property of the Island but can have it at any time as he said and Capt Gordon also —

but to return to Commodore Hotham with Isaac respecting the taxes some of the officers being in the Cabin Hotham invited Isaac in the after Cabin asked him to explain Annuals Cockrane letter respecting the direct taxes and internal duties, and showed his ignorance as to the subject Isaac informed him it was a revenue for support of Government

On or about the 8th of Sept^r there appeared a paper
 Posted up on the Bunnal^s store, signed a Citizen
 one or two Days before the sloop Hawk arrived with
 Sil^r & Isaac, which paper posted up foretold
 what they Bro^t or similar by saying if the
 Nantucket people paid the direct tax it would
 be demanded ^{of them} by the British or some Violence done
 to the Collector of said Taxes,
 from the part the reader will judge for himself

His Majestys Ship Superb off New London
 8 Sept^r 1814

Gentlemen I have Received instructions from Vice Admiral
 The Honorable Sir Alexander Cochrane K^t B^t Commander in
 Chief &c &c which will require that the inhabitants of the
 Island of Nantucket should distinctly understand, that
 the terms on which they have stipulated for the Neutrality
 of that Island will not permitt them to pay any direct
 taxes or internal duties for the support of the Government
 of the United States of America - and that I shall receive
 an assurance from you that they conceive a strict adherence
 to Neutrality, will preclude them from receiving any
 Support of that nature to that Government in failure of
 the execution of which I am Instructed forthwith to withdraw
 the passports I have granted to their Vessels or to Call on ^{upon} them
 to Pay double the amount of the taxes to his Britannic Majesty's
 Government, they pay to that of the United States of America

I have the Honor to be Gentlemen your most Obedient

Humble Servant

Signed Henry Blithman

Commodore

P.S. A Nantucket Vessel having been found whaling with a
 Counterfeit protection orders will be given to his majestys Ships
 to Capture & Destroy all Vessels belonging to that Island which
 shall be found with any other than the original protection
 granted to them, to the Gentlemen of the Committee
 who stipulated for the neutrality of the Island of Nantucket

A Town Meeting to petition Congress - and answer Commodore Flother
A Copy of the Petition -

To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled -

The Inhabitants of the town of Nantucket are compelled by calamities beyond their control once more to petition the constituted authority of the nation to contribute at least so far to the alleviation of their sufferings as to suspend the Collection of the direct taxes & internal duties which by law are or may be liable to be exacted of them they are convinced that a reiteration of the peculars multiplied and overwhelming evils which assail them is not essential to procuring the relief for which they are now constrained to petition, exposed to the free and undisturbed depredations of the declared Enemies of the Government of the United States it is indispensable to their existence as a component part of that Government that they should not during the existence of the war contribute to the means by which it is carried on, indisposed as your petitioners sincerely are to injure their own country or to contravene its wholesome laws. they cannot be less anxious to avoid affixing the seal to their own immediate misery and destruction it is evidently certain that while they continue to be without the protection of the Government of the United States, and exposed to all the depredations that may be committed upon them they cannot justly be reduced to misery and starvation for a pecuniary contribution so inconsiderable to the Government as that which is required of them. This consideration alone is not only sufficient to justify the respectful application but it ought they believe to claim for it that attention which will be a complete attainment of its object -

Signed in behalf and by direction of
the town of Nantucket in legal town meeting
on the 15th Sept 1814
Signed Attest James Coffin town Clerk
moderator.

Nantucket 15 Sep^r 1814

The Honorable Henry Hotham Esq
Commodore commanding his Majesty's
Ships & Vessels employed on the Coast of
North America from Nantucket to the
Delaware —

Nantucket 15th Sep^r 1814

Sir we have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your communication dated on the 8th instant, and we
now beg leave to reply to the Subjects of it, the Inhabitants of the Island
are under a full conviction of the heavy pressure the payment of
the direct and other taxes would have upon them at this time
of increased and increasing distress, but they have had to act
upon this Subject with obvious embarrassment, Reflecting upon
the effect, that a refusal of payment, would have on the
one hand, while they contemplated on the other with no
less anxiety the intimation that the payment should cause
the generous privileges granted them to be with drawn in
this extreme critical and perplexing Condition they assem-
bled in town Meeting and resolved to petition the Congress
of the U. S. States if not to remitt at least to suspend the
Collection of the taxes during the existance of the present
unhappy conflict, but to remove all doubt of the intention
of the inhabitants fully to comply as far as practicable
with the requisitions of the Honorable Sir Alexander Cock-
rane, the Officer deputed to collect the taxes upon the Island
was prevailed upon immediately to resign his Commission
we feel confident that no inhabitant of the Island will
accept of the appointment as collector and that no stranger
will expose himself so much as he necessarily must to hold
this undesirable office under these circumstances we are
persuaded that no taxes will be paid but we think ourselves
justified in believing that a public and direct refusal of
payment will not be required of us for the peculiar favo-
urs already granted to this place evinced in H. B. M. Govern-
ment and in his Naval Commanders a determination not
to embarrass and distress but to aid and relieve the un-
offending inhabitants, Respecting the counterfeit prote-
ctions referred to in your Honors Communication we have
made strict inquiry which has produced in our minds
a conviction that the supposed counterfeit papers were
merely an attested copy of the votes of the town, and
a copy of the protection granted the town attested by
the Notary Public. these Copies we believe were

Procured to shew the neutrality of the Island in the event of the Vessels capture and destruction to induce the discharge of the men if such discharge should be consistent with the instructions given to his Britannic majestys Commanders we do not discover that any injury can result from these Copies but if this use of them thus explained dose not comport with your Honors Views no pains shall be spared on our part to suppress the use of them, in order that you may be better able to Judge of the tenor of those instruments granted we here inclose you a true copy of all the papers which have been given to those Vessels who have no Protection.

we have the Honor to be

with great Consideration
your most Obedt^h
& very H^l Serv^t.

Nantucket 9th 16th 1814.

Capt Joseph Chase & Zenas Coffin were informant of Aaron Mito to read & copy the ^{above} letter to be sent to Hotham hearing that Latham Bunker was going out that forenoon and Sim^r Gardner with him. we went N^oward met Obed Michel he told us Aaron had just gone Southward in the next street above with a black man & trunk we followed round in said Street and at the pacific Bank stood the black man with a trunk and told us Aaron had gone down to the brick office where we found him & Simeon Gardner at the west End stoppt a little from him then David Elkins come to us and delivered L^c the letter that was to go to Hotham for him & Capt Chase to sign then Aaron left Gardner & stept to Chase & L^c and wish the buisness finished, we told him we did also he being in hast about buisness sed he could not attend to it L^c proposed to him that Capt Chase forward on the letter, he the P. Aaron broke out in a pet and said I will agree to no such thing he would have no monkey in the buisness. but would send one of each, very well L^c told him he wish none in the buisness but would copy the letter and would meet them & see what to do with it which was Done met them concluded to send it by Latham went down & delivered it to him and found Simeon Gardner was ~~over~~ over.

was on board Passenger, Vessel hanging by head fast and east of in a few minutes after Aaron & Zenas went down and del^d the letter to Latham & saw them cast off with Simeon Gardner on board to be the bearer of P Letter, the reader will be able to judge for him self where the monkey is ~~is~~ ~~is~~ ~~is~~ after hearing the following as well as the preceeding information

1814. Sep^r 17th Zenas & Isaac left her in the morning with Gifford sloop Eliza bound westward at 10 o'clock in the forenoon anchored of Nobogue wind westerly in the afternoon got up to tarpoling cove about 5 o'clock at anchor found the ^{sloop} Caroline & sloop Omega at anchor there, — about 8 o'clock that evening the ship Pactolas anchored about with the cove about 10 o'clock a boat cald along side and informed ~~them~~ that Commodore Hotham was of Block Island —

18th at sunrise got our anchor fresh wind westerly beat up thro guiches hole and anchored at Ponaganset Latham anchored at wichers hole —

19th fresh wind about W got our anchor went out in the bay found it rugged returned again at anchor the amey Robinson left here for Nantucket in the afternoon went out again but found it too rugged in the bay — returned again, and the sloop Omega come in from guiches hole also

20th first part small wind from SW to S W middle part fresh wind at W S W by still all Day

21th first part calm & small air at W N W rowd out at 9 o'clock small bear at N E run S W at 2 PM saw a sloop out by Cudakunk at 3 saw the Caroline out by Cudakunk, after sunset spoke Z Haden near Block Island we under stood him he should not stop, after dark we run W by S at 10 o'clock we saw a ship ahead at 1/2 past 11 spoke her, her boat come and invited Zenas & Isaac on board and found it to be Cap Robert Barrie of his majesty's ship Dragon 74 at anchor saw our flag paper to be regular informed us the Commodore by 6 milds West of him and set them on board again after informing them of their defects and was very polite to them & his officers ^{also} when Isaac informed them he was in the sloop Hawk about 2 o'clock anchored near the admiral's ship Superb of the east end Gardner's Island —

22th in the morning ~~she~~ the experiment at anchor about 1/2 mile from her and at sunrise her boat went on board the Superb & soon returned and went on board again soon after, wind Eastly and wet. about 9 o'clock Z Haden run to one of the frigates westward the boat from the commodore came on board the officer ask for ^{our} papers for Hotham and carried them on board to him Latham abeating up toward us at 10 o'clock anchored near the Commodore ship and the Caroline also anchored she came from the Eastward and anchored near us —

27 which made 4 sloops from Nantucket, two brigs near
the Commodore, which was two to many as it appeared
when the boat returned with our papers or flag paper
with the following indorsement on it, the Officer informed
us we ought to have come in one of the permitted vessels
to have been legal we told him we was in one of them
he seem to be affected at our refusal by the Commodore
and wish to carry it on board which he did and
soon returned again with Capt Gordon's Verbal threat
and told us the Carline was order'd off also, now
dirty thick Eastly rainy weather about one o'clock
we left them all there at anchor except Haden
who was round one of the frigates along time &
then was gone thro the race for N York —
there being two frigates to the ~~westward~~ ^{eastward} of the race in the
Sound. We left the Omega at anchor, Jimeon Gardner
with him, Judge ye where the monkey is for
some time after the return of Latham & Gardner
the sloop Fairamerica was a loading, but ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
did not hear as she advertised for the federal
fish or any bodys elce, but it has been ^{the} when apply
to Latham to take freight for people the answer was he belong
to Aaron & could take none.

A Copy of Latham's endorsement on the back of a flag of truce
Maj^r Isaac Coffin & Zenas Coffin appearing not to have been
dispatched by the proper Authority of the Island of Nantucket to
embark on board the sloop Eliza with a flag of truce. to confer
with Commodore Latham ^{Commander} H. M. ships off New London he can hold
no communication with them. and the said vessel is hereby directed
to return forthwith to Nantucket. Sign^d Henry Latham
Commodore

H M Ship Superb
22th Sept 1814

A list of vessels made out by Zenas & Isaac while at anchor at
Ponaganet to get employ for if possible was the sloop Hawk the
Sloop Dispatch Alonzo Factor Hunter Hannah Shram Enterprise,
President & Ruby also for lumber & are coming for the
prisoners but perhaps some one was fearful of monkeys being discovered

Soon after the within letter of 22th of Sep^r from Com^r Metham

Application from some of the benevolent party was made to the selectmen for a town meeting on the 28th of Sep^r to see and conclude wheather this town will chuse a new Committee to carry into effect the Neutrality agreed on with him - and to act and transact all matters and things relating thereto also to authorize the same Committee if the town shall see fit to with the commanders of all public and private armed british Vessels that shall visit our shores -

also to see and conclude wheather the town will discontinue all other Committees appointed by the town to treat with any of his Britannic majestys Ships and Vessels -

the Selectmen introduced in the warrant as follows article 3^d - to take into consideration the alarming situation of this town and to see and conclude wheather some method can be devised wherein this town may conduct themselves in such a manner: so as not to violate the Constitution and Laws - of the United States

also for the last article to see and conclude wheather this town will take such methods as will prevent provisions of all descriptions being ship^d off this Island to the Injury of the inhabitants -

the reader will judge for him self wheather the Selectmen was acting for the benefitt of this people or for the benefitt of their enemies, when they read the votes past at the following meeting -
by what ^{was} introduced in ^{the} warrant to call a meeting as above mentioned -

The Republicans that the Selectmen would be most suitable for this new contemplated Committee but to their surprise on the Day of the town meeting the Wash^g Benevolence so cal^d had a meeting prior to ^{the} town meeting and a Society went to the town house with a sufficient number for a large majority in S^d house, half an hour before the time of S^d meeting and -

29 Then after the meeting being organized refused to adjourn out of doors as usual, & perhaps if the selectmen had been appointed at this time it might have interfered with some concerns so they took the power into their hands discharging all other Committees called for and received the towns moneys out of the other Committees hands, by their new Committee - after P Meeting so as to fix, & not to mix —

Viz Copy of the Votes in P town Meeting

At a town Meeting at Nantucket Sep^r 28th 1814 —

Voted that Josiah Barker Esq^r be moderator for P meeting,

Voted that this town will not pay any direct tax or internal duties during the present war between the United States of America and the Government of great Britain

Voted that there be a committee appointed to carry into effect the Duties which is agreed on with Admiral Henry Clatham which shall consist of four persons —

Voted that M^r Aaron Mitchell M^r Roland Gelston M^r Rufus Coffin and Josiah Barker Esq^r be the above Committee —

Voted that the Committee above chosen be a committee to treat with the Commanders of all public and private armed British Vessels that are or shall be visiting our shores —

Voted that this town do now discontinue all other Committees that has been heretofore appointed by P town to treat with any of the Commanders of his Britannic majestys Ship or Vessels in behalf of the Town —

Voted that this town will prevent the carrying any provisions from this Island more than shall be permitted by Admiral Henry Clatham — A true Copy of the Record —

Sign^d attest James Coffin Town Clerk

The reader may observe the first article in the warrant treated with silent contempt instead of apologizing to our Government first by a vote that we was ordered not to pay any taxes, but from the ship Charlotte Ensign to Bermuda & the Chesapeake and elsewhere and for what the reader may judge for him self — also the above Committee calling the town money out of the hands of the other Committees hands without a vote of the town or even party as above voted —

It appears by the Votes taken in the proceeding meeting is to discharge apart of a Community which they accuse of informing the people the wright they are deprived of - And to dispossess the selectmen from acting or moving any buisness done with the Enemy public or private. Soon after the proceeding meeting. Doct Ireland Gelston and Josiah Barker two of the last mentioned Committee left this place for to inform Commodore Hotham that this town had Complied with his command, a bout the taxes and on the morning of the 28th the Day for the town meeting there was two inflammatory papers stuck up on the Bernal Store one of them was a gainst Zenas & Isaac because they had ~~been~~ ^{in a} regular Flag of truce to try to get relief for the Public and a recommend from Hotham to the Commanding Officer at Halifax while while application and permission was obtained from our Government to bring the prisoners belonging to Nantucket from Halifax. having a scrip from Admiral Cockburn for that purpose, but the proceeding above mentioned & refusing or discharging the Selectmen &c put an end to the buisness, ^{best perhaps} ~~for~~ there should be some more of their Letters and papers shown and detected as has allready been seen & red by the Republican on board the Enemys Vessels which did not get there by a regular flag from this town

31 A Copy of the other Paper that was on Bunnels Stone

To the Public

Before my arrival at this place yesterday. I considered the people were more happily Situated than any other Citizens in America. but to my astonishment last evening I was convinced that the Situation of the Inhabitants was more critical than any other set of men on Earth for at a late period I learned that there was a Caucus meeting which I attended and to my astonishment I there found Gideon Gardner, who has been a French partisan and an Enemy to the English recommending the Selectmen to be a Committee to Correspond and stipulate with Admiral Hotham. who also are, and ever have been professed enemies to Great Britain. Should the good people of this Island allow those men to have the corresponding powers with the English, they may rest assured that all stipulations heretofore entered into will be broken off. for the Commanding officers as well know what the political sentiments of every person is on this Island as the Inhabitants does them selves therefore I beg and intreat them one and all to prevent if possible such an unnatural Committee being appointed, and save your town from

Destruction — Sign^d A. Stranger

The above paper was taken down by Gideon Gardner early in the morning of the 28th of Sept 1814 (the same day of the town meeting) it has been mentioned by the federalists and by Aaron Mitchel in particular that the political Sentiments of each individual of this place is as well known by the British admiral Hotham as they were amongst the Inhabitants. The reader will judge wheather the republicans informed them or the Federalists gave them this information when when they hear Silvanus May & Isaac Coffin ^{see} inform them that Admiral Cochrane recd a letter to them and let them ^{see} the same and the Sinners name informing him that they were democrats the owners and so forth they told him they were Republicans and he commended them for being so cald republicans, or in favour of their own Government —

A few Days after this ^{there} was another paper posted up threatening

Caution to George Cannon

Sir having understood that you have taken it upon you to exclaim against the good people of this town for taking certain votes at a late town meeting which alone could save their ^{property} from destruction not your property for none you have except what you got as a hiring from that power which never have nor never can assist us in time of great peril like the present. I therefore have to say to you that the first Observations that you shall be known to make against the inhabitants for endeavoring to save their property from destruction shall be transmitted with a statement of your Character to Admiral Balthazar ~~Cochrane~~ through whom by direction of Admiral Cochrane do we occupy our dwellings and remain with our families in peace - and no doubt he will direct one of his majestys Commanders to take you from among those people who enjoy more priviledges than any Citizens on the Sea coast of America can boast of -

Sign'd A Citizen

Altho the above Caution does not name any one except George Cannon, wheather it ^{is not} a threat to others to deter them from speaking, as Cannon was not at the Caucus nor at the town meeting above alluded to

A Copy ~~of~~ His Majestys Ship Superb off Harpers Bay 3rd Oct 1814
The Gentlemen of the Committee appointed to carry into effect the Neutrality of the Island of Nantucket } Gentlemen I have to acknowledge the rec^d of your letter of the 29th Ult^{mo} inclosing a copy of certain resolutions of a legal town meeting of the Inhabitants of Nantucket on the preceding day, on which Occasion I perceive a vote has been pass^d not to pay any direct taxes or internal duties, during the present war between Great Britain and the United States of America, a report of which proceedings I shall submit to Vice Admiral the Honorable Sir Alexander Cochrane Commander in Chief, the Indulgence the Commander in Chief directed me to grant to the inhabitants of the Island of Nantucket having been conceded for the relief of their distress Occasion by the want of provisions and not intended to give security to so large an importation thereof as would open a traffic, having the effect of supplying his majestys Enemies in other parts of the United States, it is impossible to permit any Vessel to pass from Nantucket to the continent with any lading whatever except that expressed in the passports furnished them by me - which afford advantages to that Island already so great that I have no authority to increase them - I am not yet informed the circumstances under which the Loop Regulator has been captured by his majestys Ship Neeson off the Delaware, & I shall hope it has not been done without a sufficient cause, I shall however derive report there of to be made to me and shall do my endeavours to procure

justice to the owners - & to obtain for them any reparation they may be entitled to. and I will order the release of the inhabitants of Nantucket who compose her crew if they should be still be detained on board the Frigate and apply for the same if they should be sent into port

I have the Honor to be Gentlemen yours
most Obedient humble Servant

Signed Henry Hotham Commodore

On or about the 10th of Oct the Brig^t Newfoundland of N-York was attack by five Barges with about one hundred & forty men as one of the Officers inform^d R^d Gelston Belonging to the British Frigate Endymion, and it is said there was more than one hundred of them was slain, since which the information is that not more than thirty ever returned to P^r ship —

on the 12th Oct the prize ship Douglas was run on shoar near Sacacher pond with a load of rum sugar Coffee Cotton &c &c. ————— free trade & sailors wrights

Some time in Oct Capt Coeington of the U States flotilla on the R Island Station issued an order forbidding all block Island Vessels & boats entering the Harbour of R Island & prevented Noah Hatch from bringing any provisions to Nantucket — on the 2^d of Nov^r in the evening ~~was~~ the following received at Nantucket —

Nix^r

New Bedford Nov^r 2th 1814 —

This is to give notice that no Vessel belonging to the Island of Nantucket or Block Island will be allowed to Enter the Harbour of New Bedford —

Signed C. - E. Megee Officer
Commanding U. S. flotilla

about the middle of Nov^r

These restrictions was removed as well as at Philadel^a By Cromell Barnard going to Congress in company with the Vice President Gerry after he had been applied to by the Republican to assist us at Nantucket

Of this town are requested to meet at Washington Hall
 This Evening 6 O'clock precisely - to conclude upon measures which may
 appear best for the (Standing Committee) to pursue in order to
 obtain a Market for our (Fish) as the Codfishery may become
 an important object of the Citizens of our County the subject
 is highly interesting. and calls for mature deliberation
 Friday Nov^r 25th 1814 — A general & punctual attendance is required

Nov^r 26th at a town Meeting, and adjourned to Tristram
 Huprey Store for more room. after much debate and
 abusive language from some of the people ^{who} styles
 them selves benevolents, and even denyed paying
 any part of some of the town Dets if they could help it
 and then appointed there fore Committee men to try
 to get the prisoners from Halifax that belong to
 Nantucket but had heretofore prevented the
 Selectmen and their Committee with their
 order from Admiral Cockrane for all
 the prisoners they might find belonging
 to Nantucket and what was most extra-
 ordinary was that they refused to receive any in-
 formation from P^r Committee about the prisoners
 but after they had voted a new Committee to get
 the Prisoners, they then voted that Silvanus & Isaac
 might tell them what they new as individuals
 and P^r Committee called on Silvanus & Isaac and called
 loudly for their information, and after some con-
 versation.

Friends

Nantucket Nov^r 30th 1814

Under existing circumstances we believe no Infor-
 mation from us by documents or otherwise will apply
 as was originally intended, for the relief of prisoners

To Josiah Barker }
 Aaron Michel }
 D^r Roland Goldston }
 (the other was not on the Island at that time)

with due respect we are your Friends

Signed. Silvanus May
 Isaac Coffin

Some time about the middle of Dec^r Jonah Barker & Doc^r Gelston
 Two of the Committee went in the Experiment bound for N-York
 to endeavor to see Admiral Hotham respecting Nantucket prisoners
 at Halifax &c &c and Capt Thomas Hollar also to see what he could
 do as respected the sloop Regulator, but all that Capt got was
 a new passport, and all the Committee could get as they
 P^r was a pass to go to Halifax, as Hotham informed them
 that it was out of his power to give them an order for the
 Prisoners, and they returned to this Island in sloop Experiment
 on the 31th of December 1814 and informed that Hotham told them
 that they might carry fish in the Vessels already permitted to
 carry oil & Candles, but would not give any thing to show
 that they might carry fish — a paragraph from Hotham letter
 the 3th Dec^r 1814. It is impossible to permit any Vessel to pass
 from Nantucket to the continent with any lading whatever except
 that expressed in the passport furnish them by me —
 January the 4th 1815 being the fourth day of the week and the
 Selectmen usual time of meeting that evening at their
 board for their business of the Town and hearing that the
 Sheriff had writs of inditement to serve on six of them they
 on P^r Day invited Walter Folger Silvanus Macy Gideon Gardner
 Gilbert Coffin & Zenas Coffin to come to Isaac Coffin house
 at 7 O'clock that evening for Bondsman for P^r Selectmen
 that they might not be carried to jail, Walter Folger J^r Esq^r
 and Charles Folger Esq^r being present to be recognised before
 before to appear at Boston on the 14th March for to answer
 to their inditement, about 8 O'clock the Sheriff came into
 Isaac Coffin house where the Selectmen held meeting, and
 Isaac Coffin ask^d him for one of the inditements to read to the
 Company which was read, Gideon Gardner ask^d the Sheriff if
 he was oblige to serve P^r writs immediately, his reply was the
 Court would not set till some time in March next and that
 one week or 4 Days prior to the Court being in session would
 be in time for him Silvanus Macy obviated to the Sheriff provided
 he served P^r writs the selectmen would be arrested and could

36 Not act or transact any of the towns buisness, if they did
not act the the towns poor would suffer and money
wanting and none to be obtained without hiring. and none
could be hired without the approbation of the Selectmen,
the sherrif observed he would postpone the serving the writs
and would accommodate all in his power, even if this town
would vote for him to burn 5 writs he would burn them
provided the town would take the responsibility upon them-
selves, so that he should not suffer by it —

Daniel Coffin one of the Selectmen, told the sherrif they asked
no favours of him, & wishd him to understand that the select
men did not ask him to postpone the serving the writs
for they wanted no favours from him, then Isaac Coffin
made simelar observation to the sherrif and told him that they
should be together that evening at his house and were ready
for that purpose and wanted no favours of him, and told
him the sherrif that it would prove more serious to him than
he expected this was done in a serious manner, so much
so, that it appeared to attract the attention of all present
Gideon & Silvanus both told the sherrif it was on account of
the public and towns poor that they proposed his postponing
the buisness, the Sherrif then said he would postpone the buisness
as long as the Law would admit and not serve them till
some time in march —

On or about the 21st of January 1815 the Sloop Amey C. H. Robinson and the Sloop Experiment P. C. Myrick was taken by the schooner Lunenburg of Lunenburg and was both manned for Lunenburg and the crews of both sloops landed on Block Island the same Day & Evening, and the same day about sunset 40 miles S E of Block Island the Sloop Amey Charles H Robinson on board was liberated, ^{by ship Palladay} and in the same night following got a man of of Sam^l Helston and arrived at Nantucket the next morning about 10 o'clock with S^l sloop Amey —

22th On First Day the wind being about N E and E N E all Day at sunset began to snow & storm and was a severe gale of wind all night and a snow storm also —

On or about the 26th the Crews of both sloops that was landed on Block Island arrived at Nantucket on board the Mail Packet from Falmouth, and at Falmouth the night before in a block island boat all well —

At a Legal Town Meeting at Nantucket November
26th 1814. Isaac Coffin Esquire was chosen moderator
of said Meeting -
Voted - That this Meeting be Adjourned To Tristram Hussey
Store -

Voted - That Josiah Barker Esquire Aaron Mitchell -
Benjamin Coffin and Roland Gelston who are the
Standing Committee are requested to do all in their
power for the Relief of the poor Prisoners belonging
to Nantucket which are confined in halifax
and elsewhere -

Voted - That Isaac Coffin Esq^r and Silvanus Macy as Individuals
be requested to give the Standing Committee every inform-
ation in their power respecting the Nantucket Prisoners
which are now in Confinement -

Voted - That the above mentioned Committee be Authorized to
Send a flagg. tree to Hallifax to obtain the relief
of the prisoners, but said Vessel to go free of Expence
to this Town -

Nantucket March 6th 1815

A True Copy of Record Attest

James Coffin Town Clerk

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